

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00475 220620Z

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SR-02 AID-05 IGA-01 PM-03 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-10 /041 W

----- 119278

R 220548Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2220

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 0475

PASS AID/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, LA

SUBJECT: RETURN TO VILLAGE OF REFUGEES

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CINCPAC, DIA 210802Z JAN 75 FROM USDAO
VIENTIANE REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

UNCLAS 9016-SE/JAN 75

SUBJ: RETURN TO VILLAGE OF REFUGEES

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION: THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE WAS APPROACHED BY THE FAR DCSLOG, MAJOR GENERAL SOURITH D. SASORITH, ON 16 JANUARY 1975, CONCERNING THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES. HE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION ASSETS TO MOVE 7,000 REFUGEES FROM BAN DONG AND BAN Y LAI IN THE VICINITY OF COORDINATES TF 3321 TO VIENTIANE AND THEN ON TO PHONG SAVAN IN THE VICINITY OF COORDINATES UG 1354. HIS RESPONSE TO THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE WAS THAT THE PGNU SHOULD PROVIDE CONTRACT TRUCKS FROM THE PRESENT AREA TO VIENTIANE AND FUEL FOR THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT'S C-123 AIRCRAFT (MAP END ITEMS) FOR FURTHER MOVEMENT TO PHONG SAVAN. MG SOURITH ASKED OUR OPINION ABOUT THE USE OF THESE AIRCRAFT.

2. WE ADVISED THAT, IN OUR OPINION, THE USE OF CONTRACT TRUCKS RATHER THAN MILITARY VEHICLES FOR THE MOVEMENT FROM THE PRESENT

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LOCATION TO VIENTIANE WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA. FURTHER, SINCE THE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE PEACE ACCORDS, WE SAW NO OBJECTION TO THE USE OF ROYAL LAOTIAN AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT FOR THE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES.

3. FUNDS FOR THE MOVEMENT MUST COME FROM THE UNITED NATIONS TO DEFRAY DIRECT EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF THE C-123 AIRCRAFT. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT UN FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF APPROX \$120,000 ARE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE C-123S DURING THIS MOVE.

COMMENT: REFUGEE RETURN TO VILLAGE AND PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR SOME TIME.

IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED TRANSPORTATION NETWORK IN LAOS WE WERE EXPECTING THE MILITARY TO GET SOME SORT OF TASKING IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MOVE. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT USE OF UN FUNDS CARRIES INSPECTION OF RE-LOCATION SITES AS A PREREQUISITE.

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